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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/593,617

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Ji Chang Son

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EXAMINER

WALDBAUM, SAMUEL A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1792

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/593,617	Applicant(s) SON ET AL.	
	Examiner SAMUEL A. WALDBAUM	Art Unit 1792	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 September 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/21/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5 and 17 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kim et al (WO 03/057969, hereafter `969).

3. Claims 1 and 5: `969 is a washing machine with a tub (fig. 1, part 20) with a venting unit for vent the tub (fig. 1, part 22b is the ventilation pipe, page 9) with a sound insulation means located at the exterior opening of the ventilation pipe (fig. 15a part 400 is the connector that connects the ventilation pipe with the cabinet wall, where there is blocking wall protruding into the passage, part 420, thus it is inherent that this blocking wall will act as sound damping means, which is evidenced by paragraph [0036] of the applicant's specification where it states that the sound damping occurs because of a blocking wall. Therefore since the art teaches a blocking wall it will inherently also act as a sounding damping means).

4. Claim 2: `969 teaches that the vent hole is projected from the top of the tub (fig. 1) with a vent pipe secured to the cabinet (fig. 1) and a bellows connecting the vent pipe and the vent hole (page 11 and 12).

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5. Claim 3: '969 teaches a connecting portion inserted to the vent hole and connecting portion for connecting the vent pipe to the cabinet (fig. 1, 15a-17b, page 19-21).

6. Claim 4: '969 teaches that the sounding damping means is connected to the connecting portion (figs. 1 and 15a, shows that the blocking wall is mounted on the tube that is inserted in the hole in the cabinet and that is connected to the ventilation pipe).

7. Claim 17: See claim 1 above for ventilation unit, blocking unit and tub and claim 2 above about the bellows. '969 further teaches a cabinet (fig. 1, part 10), a rotating drum mounted in the tub (fig. 1, part 30) with a driving motor (fig. 1, part 40), a water supply unit (fig. 1, inlet pipe part 21, page 9) and a gasket mounted in the front of the tub (fig. 1, clearly shows a gasket mounted at the front of the tub connected to the tub housing that extends and touches the projection from the door thus it creates a seal).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 6-16 and 18-20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al (WO 03/057969) as applied to claim 5 and 17 above further in view of Franz Wolf et al (WO 97/09527, hereafter `527, machine translation provided for citation) and Andrea Gattl (EP 0844439, hereafter `439).

`969 teaches all the limitations of claims 5 and 17 above.

10. Claim 6: `969 teaches using only one blocking wall. `527 is solving the same problem of using blocking walls as a sounding damping system in ventilation pipe and `439 are blocking walls in ventilation pipe. `527 teaches multiple pairs of blocking walls arranged opposite each other and multiple walls in a group (fig. 1-3, page 1 and 2 translation) and `439 teaches multiple blocking/air flow directing walls can be arranged in pairs and offset (fig. 1 and 4, abstract). All of the claimed elements were known in the prior art and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would have yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, meaning that multiple pairs of blocking walls and that the can be offset from each other as taught by `527 and `439 in apparatus `969 to have yield the predictable result of controlling air flow through the vent thus acting as a sounding damping means.

11. Claim 7: `437 teaches that the wall can have different arrangements (col. 4, lines 5-25). `527 show's multiple arrangements and alignments of the blocking walls extend in to the flow path of the some of the blocking walls (fig. 1-3 and 5). It is well within the skill level of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have arranged the blocking walls in

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apparatus '969 in view of '527 and '437 that the first pair of blocking walls cross the second pair of blocking walls.

12. Claim 8: '969 teaches the use of ribs to support a plate at the bubble protection valve at the entrance of the ventilation pipe from the tub thus to prevent the plate from shaking and to support the plate (pages 17 and 18, part 322). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used a rib as taught by '969 at the blocking wall to support the blocking wall to prevent it from shaking.

13. Claim 9: See claim 6 above, further more '969 teaches that the ventilation pipe can have a zigzag form of a flow path (page 11 and 12, fig. 2c).

14. Claim 10: '437 teaches that the blocking walls can be tilted towards the center of the ventilation pipe (fig. 1).

15. Claim 11: See claim 8 above.

16. Claim 12: See claim 1 above. '437 teaches that two blocking walls can be formed close together to form a chamber between the two walls (fig. 1, 3 and 4) and '527 teaches that chamber are formed between the different blocking walls (fig. 1, part 10). Since the blocking walls control the flow of air thus causing the sound damping (see claim 1 above), therefore air will get displaced and trapped within the chambers causing sounding damping.

17. Claim 13: See claim 2 above.

18. Claim 14: See claim 3 above.

19. Claim 15: See claim 4 above.

20. Claim 16: '437 teaches that the pair of blocking walls are spaced a predetermined distance to form a hole between the blocking walls (fig. 1) and that the second pair of blocking

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walls are arranged similar (fig. 1) thus creating chambers between the walls (fig. 1). `527 teaches that the chamber can be located across from each other at predetermined gap (fig. 1-3).

- 21. Claim 18: See claim 6 above.
- 22. Claim 19: See claim 9 above.
- 23. Claim 20: See claims 12 and 16 above.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SAMUEL A. WALDBAUM whose telephone number is (571)270-1860. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TR 5:45-3:15, every other F 5:45-2:15 est.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Cleveland can be reached on 571-272-1418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. A. W./
Examiner, Art Unit 1792

/FRANKIE L. STINSON/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1792